

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT M 01221 070418Z  
ACTION EA-12

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NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13 /068 W  
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FM AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3550  
INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT MORESBY 1221

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINS, ID, PP  
SUBJECT: VISIT TO IRIAN JAYA

1. SUMMARY. AMERICAN MISSIONARIES SAID IRIAN JAYA OFFICIALS WERE MUCH INTERESTED IN MY VISIT TO JAYAPURA AND APPEARED TO BELIEVE I WAS BRINGING MESSAGE FROM PORT MORESBY. I MADE IT CLEAR TO HIGH LEVEL GROUP ASSEMBLED TO MEET ME WHEN I PAID COURTESY CALL ON DEPUTY GOVERNOR THAT I WAS ONLY ON HOLIDAY. US MISSIONARIES COMMENTED ON LATENT SYMPATHY OF ETHNIC IRIANESE FOR OPM, BUT BELIEVE IRIANESE AT LEAST IN JAYAPURA RECOGNIZE THAT THEIR CAUSE IS LOST. END SUMMARY.

2. I SPENT FIVE DAYS IN IRIAN JAYA EN ROUTE TO BALI FOR A HOLIDAY. ALTHOUGH I HAD INFORMED INDO AMB BUSIRI IN PORT MORESBY THAT ENTIRE TRIP WAS HOLIDAY, IRIAN JAYA AUTHORITIES SET UP JAYAPURA STOP WITH CONSIDERABLY MORE FORMALITY THAN I ANTICIPATED. I WAS MET AT AIRPORT BY REPRESENTATIVES OF GOVERNOR'S OFFICE, PROTOCOL OFFICER AND WAS GIVEN INTERPRETER/GUIDE (AN IRIANESE) AND ESCORT OFFICER (WOMAN APPARENTLY ATTACHED TO POLICE). WAS GIVEN CAR AND DRIVER AND WAS FOLLOWED BY BACKUP CAR. UPON ARRIVAL ALL ARRANGEMENTS HAD BEEN MADE FOR ME TO  
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STAY AT GOVT REST HOUSE, AND I DID SO UPON RECOMMENDATION OF US MISSIONARY AT AIRPORT, ALTHOUGH I HAD HOTEL RESERVATION.

3. IRIAN JAYA AUTHORITIES ARRANGED FOR ME TO PAY COURTESY CALL ON DEPUTY GOVERNOR (GOVERNOR WAS IN MERAUKE) UPON SUGGESTION OF INDO AMB BUSIRI. WITH

DEPUTY GOVERNOR WAS THE MILITARY COMMANDER OF IRIAN JAYA, NAVAL COMMANDER, POLICE COMMANDER, CHIEF PROSECUTOR, CHIEF JUSTICE, HEAD OF CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY AND BUPATI. I WAS CONSIDERABLY TAKEN ABACK BY THIS ASSEMBLAGE. I TREATED THE MEETING AS A COURTESY CALL AND DEALT IN PLEASANTRIES AND GENERALITIES. I EXPLAINED THAT I WAS ON HOLIDAY, AND THAT I HAD PLANNED THIS TRIP THREE YEARS EARLIER BUT HAD TO CANCEL PLANS IN ORDER TO GO TO WASHINGTON. INDONESIANS TIPTOED AROUND SUCH MATTERS AS BORDER PROBLEMS, KIDNAPPINGS AND INDO-PNG RELATIONS, BUT NEVER GOT TO THE POINT OF ASKING DIRECT QUESTIONS AND I DID NOT COMMENT ON THESE SUBJECTS.

4. US MISSIONARY SUBSEQUENTLY TOLD ME THERE HAD BEEN GREAT INTEREST IN MY VISIT ON PART OF INDO OFFICIALS WHO APPEARED TO EXPECT THAT I WAS BRINGING A MESSAGE FROM PORT MORESBY. MISSIONARY SAID IRIAN JAYA OFFICIALS HAD BEEN MUCH SHOCKED AND UPSET BY KIDNAPPINGS OF SEVERAL WEEKS AGO. THEY HAD TRIED TO NEGOTIATE RELEASE OF HOSTAGES AND BELIEVED THEY HAD SHOWN GREAT PATIENCE AND RESTRAINT IN DEALING WITH DISSIDENTS. WHEN THEY FINALLY DECIDED TO TAKE AGGRESSIVE ACTION AGAINST DISSIDENTS, THEY WERE MUCH TAKEN ABACK BY THE STRENGTH OF THE PNG PROTESTS AGAINST BORDER INCURSIONS AND BOMBINGS. HE SAID THEY SEEMED TO BE AT A LOSS AS TO WHAT TO DO NEXT.  
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5. TENSION WAS IN THE AIR IN JAYAPURA, A TENSION I DID NOT SENSE IN BIAK OR BALI. THE MILITARY PRESENCE WAS VERY CONSPICUOUS. HELICOPTERS SWEEPED THE TOWN ABOUT NOON EACH DAY. SEVERAL MISSIONARIES SPOKE OF INDONESIAN DISTRUST OF BOTH IRIANESE AND GPNG. THERE WAS A DEFINITE BUT QUITE DEFENSIVE CURIOSITY ABOUT PNG. INDONESIANS SEEMED TO WANT TO BE TOLD THAT THINGS WERE GOING BADLY IN PNG, BUT DIDN'T REALLY EXPECT TO BE TOLD THAT.

6. US MISSIONARIES IN JAYAPURA SAID THEY BELIEVED A GOOD DEAL OF LATENT SYMPATHY FOR OPM EXISTED AMONG ETHNIC IRIANESE, BUT IRIANESE RECOGNIZED THEY WERE HOPELESSLY OUTNUMBERED BY JAVANESE AND OTHER INDONESIANS. MISSIONARIES COMMENTED UPON APATHY AMONG IRIANESE. MY DRIVER (IRIANESE) ASKED ME THROUGH INTERPRETER IF HE COULD RETURN TO PORT MORESBY WITH ME AND BE MY DRIVER THERE. INTERPRETER (ALSO IRIANESE) TOLD ME REPEATEDLY HE WOULD LIKE TO VISIT PNG, BUT ON ONE OCCASION ADDED HE COULD NOT GET PASSPORT.

7. IN BIAK, US MISSIONARY SAID IRIANESE WERE STILL

DREAMING OF INDEPENDENCE. SAID THEY EXPECTED PNG TO FREE THEM FROM INDONESIANS. (MISSIONARY AGREED WITH ME WHEN I SAID THIS WAS HOPELESSLY NAIVE.) MISSIONARY ALSO SAID SOME IRIANESE WERE LOOKING TO RED CHINA FOR HELP. ADDED THAT BIAK HAS LONG BEEN HOT BED OF DISSIDENCE.

8. COMMENT: SOURCES QUOTED ABOVE WERE UNKNOWN TO ME BEFORE THIS TRIP AND I HAVE NO PRIOR INFORMATION ABOUT THEM TO ASSIST IN ESTIMATING VALIDITY OF THEIR COMMENTS. THIS CABLE SHOULD BE READ WITH THIS RESERVATION IN MIND. SEVERAL COMMENTS MADE BY VARIOUS PEOPLE TO WHOM I TALKED WOULD HAVE BEEN VERY INTERESTING TO PURSUE, BUT I DECIDED TO BE VERY CAREFUL IN THE QUESTIONS I ASKED AS CONFIDENTIAL

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WELL AS IN THE COMMENTS I OFFERED.  
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## Message Attributes

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